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A circular stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIP). The text "OIP" is at the top, "JCI 174" is on the right, "FEB 16 2005" is in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom. The word "In" is partially visible on the right edge.

FEB 16 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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FORMAL MATTERS

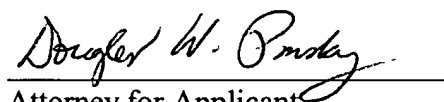
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Office Action on the merits has not yet been issued in the subject application, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is required for consideration of this Ninth Information Disclosure Statement.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned, indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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